

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mail transfer agent adapted for determining the disposition of incoming e-mail from a sender includes a penalty count filter module which functions on the basis of current communication system resource usage, such as the number of concurrent TCP connections being maintained, and
5 penalty counts assigned for cumulative undesirable sender activity such as sending large e-mail files. The penalty count filter module can operate in a selective-rejection state accepting e-mail from senders without a penalty count and randomly accepting other e-mail, and in a random-rejection state rejecting all e-mail from senders with a penalty count and randomly
10 rejecting other e-mail. The rejection rates can be increased or decreased in response to a detected increase or decrease in the usage of system resources.

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